9/11/75

Mr. Tom Susman, Counsel
Senate Administrative Practises Subcommittee
New Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom,

Until the morning's newcasts I was not aware of your subcommittee's interest in the CIA and other federal uses of behavior-changing methods. I enclose a copy of a semi-mysterious CIA memo on it from the Warren Commission's files.

In an effort to make the outgoing mail I've marked only three places in red for your attention if this memo can now mean anything in your inquiry. The other marks apparently were made by someone on the Commission. There is probably more I would find relevant if I were going to try to carry this further. I believe it reflects other than the official position on these drugs and other CIA knowledge than has become public and that there is no genuine question of national security.

My presumption is that this was prepared to satisfy a Warren Commission interest in Oswald as a Russian Manchurian Cnadidate. (In time you will learn that the entire investigation was bent toward grasping at any straw of Oswald guilt.)

Like those attached to the so-called Colby Report you will notice that this memo is addressed to nobody by nobody on no date. I don't think that is the way the real CIA works.

I interpret this CIA memo to mean that the experiments were continued long after it was known that the ostensible original purposes were not valid, that the Soviets had not succeeded in this alleged purpose after more than a decade of known CIA work. I suggest that if they "consistently lagged about five years behind" us in this kind of work there is basis for asking questions about the alleged reasons for our original work.

On the other hand, I would not say that if there was genuine belief the Soviets were up to something our experiments, if done other than they were, need have changed CIA concepts even if by early 1964 it knew the Soviets "are not particularly expert in the use of such drugs" or could "force a course of action on an individual," the official explanation of all of this by us.

I also have a similar memo on the Soviet use of assassinations if that should be of interest. It runs a couple of dozen pages. There was originally some withholding of parts but I think I now have both versions.

I don't know if you'll find enough in this to serve as a basis for asking more of the CIA. I do think this memo was prepared with some subtlety and careful reading can suggest what it does not say.

Hastily,

Harold Weisberg